

Testimony of Charlie Dow  
Student at Common Ground High School,  
358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515  
Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee  
March 24th, 2011

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriation Committee:

I am Charlie Dow, a freshman at Common Ground High School, a charter school in New Haven. I only really have one question; what makes them (other public school students) more valuable than me? Especially when we take the same classes and get the same grades; it is just that they go to a public school and I go to a charter school? Shouldn't we be valued equally? What about the freshman like me who goes to a public school, but doesn't take classes like chemistry and algebra II that I am taking at my charter school. Instead they take something as Algebra I and intro to chemistry. Why are they more valuable than me? I could have gone to Hamden High School where I would be worth the same as the others in that school. Yet instead I went to Common Ground High School, a charter school where I'm not valued as much funding-wise, as I would be at HHS

I really do hate how my school isn't being treated right when it comes to spending. This is my Algebra II textbook (hold up the packets). The ECS formula isn't right. Let's use a real example. On average a New Haven Public school student is worth approximately \$14000. A Common Ground High School Student, a New Haven Charter School, is worth approximately \$9300. That's a \$4700 difference and a common ratio of 0.664286. If we translate that common ratio into a percent we get 66.4286%. Now subtract that from a hundred and we get 33.4286%

less than the average New Haven public school student. You can check my math if you want, but 33% is a lot when it comes to school funding. That 33% could probably turn this (algebra II packet) into a textbook that we don't have to continually photocopy.

Thank-You, and have a good evening.